Socialist Worker

MAY '68

The student revolt and general strike that shook the world

CAN IT HAPPEN AGAIN?

Eamonn McCann (Civil Rights leader 1968), Marnie Holborow (SWP)

Thursday 14th May, 8.00pm
North Star Hotel, Amiens St
(opp. Connolly Rly. Stn.)

May '68: Can it happen again?

Thirty years ago this month France exploded. Students and young workers fought running battles with riot police and took over the centre of Paris.

Ten million workers went on strike and occupied their factories in the biggest general strike in history. De Gaulle the right wing French president fled the country. Revolution was on the cards.

May 68 was one of the highest moments of a wave of revolt that swept around the world over the next few years. In the US the huge black civil rights and anti Vietnam war movements shook the foundations of the state.

In Italy a summer of discontent in 1969 saw mass strikes and factory occupations with thousands joining revolutionary organisations.

In Britain, Czechoslovakia, Germany and elsewhere major student revolts took place with thousands moving towards revolutionary ideas. And of course in Ireland a mass civil rights movement challenged the sectarianism of the Northern state.

The offensive continued right up until 1974 with the miners strike in Britain and a revolution in Portugal.

The events of 1968 and after showed that revolution was not something that only effected poorer third world countries but could happen in the heart of the advanced industrial west.

Thirty years later the events of 1968 offer valuable lessons for anyone who wants to fight to change the world. From Indonesia and South Korea, to the UPS strike in the US and the recent strikes in Germany, Denmark and France itself workers are fighting back against the injustices of capitalism.

The recent collapse of the Asian Tigers offer a warning to those who think the Celtic Tiger will go on forever. Even now there is huge anger in Ireland over the fact that only the wealthy few are gaining from the so-called economic success.

At this meeting to celebrate the events of 1968 Marnie Holborrow and Eamonn Mc Cann, Derry civil rights leader and Journalist will look at the lessons of those years and the possibility of future revolts. If you want to see a better world where people are put before profit, competition and war, come along and join the discussion about how we can go one better than the generation of 68 this time around.

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Thurs14th May, 8pm North Star Hotel, Amiens St (opp. Connolly Rly. Stn.)

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